

**METHOD FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE  
CONNECTIONS IN A NETWORK TOPOLOGY**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A computer user interface to display connections in a network topology  
display. Different visual representations are used for a single and multiple connection types.  
If there is only a single connection between nodes then a simple line is used. If there are  
multiple connections between nodes then a line that terminates in a "fork," or small U-shape  
symbol, is used to indicate a multiple connection line. The termination symbol, or  
10 "connection endpoint symbol," is adjacent to a node at each end of the line. In general, many  
types of symbols can be used. For example, a square, diamond, or other basic shape can be  
used as the connection endpoint symbol. Also, the invention provides for a symbol to be  
adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, a node. For example, the number of connections represented  
by a line can be shown near the node, or connection, to which the number relates. A feature  
15 of the invention provides for details of the multiple connection line to be displayed upon user  
selection. If a user moves a pointer in the vicinity of a multiple connection line then a text  
box appears that describes the actual number of connections represented by the multiple  
connection line. Other information can be provided by the text box.

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